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# PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

## Compilation of proposals by Governments

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document contains the proposals by Governments for inclusion in Agenda 21 under the protection and management of land resources, received by the Secretariat since the conclusion of the third session. Each proposal is indicated below under the programme areas suggested in documents A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.2 and A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/CRP.12/Rev.1 at the third session.

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* See document A/CONF.151/PC/96.

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## II.A. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

### Proposal by the delegation of Venezuela

### World programme for the planning and management of protected natural areas

#### Basis for action

2. In the last 20 years the protected areas of the world have expanded significantly. More than 6,500 protected areas have been declared, and they fall into a variety of technical and legal categories and classifications. Most of the protected natural areas, especially in the developing countries, have simply been declared officially, and there are no actual plans for the management and supervision of the lands they comprise. If the stated purposes in declaring them are to be realized, the protected areas must be brought together under a national and international system that permits consistency in the definitions, categories, content and scope of their management plans. A system of this type will facilitate international cooperation to improve the planning, management and supervision of protected ecosystems (usually fragile and vulnerable), making it possible to conserve the natural and often cultural heritage of the planet.

#### Objectives

3. To formulate and implement a world programme to improve the process of planning and managing protected natural areas (national parks and other protected areas such as forest preserves, animal refuges, watershed protection areas, natural monuments, etc.), which would include:

(a) Developing a protected areas system based on well-defined and internationally consistent categories;

(b) Establishing universally accepted management norms and procedures that can in turn be applied to the specificity of each region and country;

(c) Promoting the integration of national systems of protected natural areas into each country's plans for the development and management of its land;

(d) Furthering international assistance and cooperation for this purpose.

#### Activities

(a) Creating a global system of protected natural areas under the guidance of a United Nations agency, with the participation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), now the World Conservation Union;

(b) Establishing a consistent scheme of definitions, classifications, norms and procedures for the planning, management and supervision of protected natural areas;

(c) Designing and setting up an information system on protected natural areas to facilitate national planning and the international monitoring of such areas;

(d) Establishing a scheme of technical assistance and international cooperation for the promotion, design and establishment of national systems of protected natural areas;

(e) Promoting the exchange of information and of legal instruments that have been developed in each country, to enable protected natural areas to be more effectively managed.

## III.B. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

### Proposal by the delegation of Venezuela

### Environmental planning and management programme for Latin America and the Caribbean

#### Basis for action

4. Land management is one of the prime strategies for achieving sustainable development. This is particularly true in the developing countries, where it is still feasible to achieve a geographical distribution of the population and its economic and social activities in a way that respects the integrity and potential of the natural resources, this being the practical way to incorporate the environmental dimension into planning.

5. Even though the Latin American and Caribbean region is facing serious environmental problems stemming mainly from its condition of underdevelopment, it does possess the largest expanses on the planet of valuable natural resources in a practically pristine or virtually untouched state.

6. There are various prerequisites in the environmental planning and management process. One of these is to have a basic set of principles resting on the fact that economic development and social and cultural evolution are at a similar stage; which is more or less the case in this region.

#### Objectives

7. To promote ongoing environmental planning and management of the land in each country of the Latin American and Caribbean region, bearing in mind their particularities, and as a matter of course making use of the experiences of the countries in the region that have management programmes in progress, like Venezuela and its Venezuelan Environmental Systems Project.

Activities

(a) Establishing a Latin American and Caribbean centre for environmental planning and management, for the purpose of considering and designing regional policies, helping to set up national land management programmes, and training human resources in the field;

(b) Promoting the formulation of land management plans in the countries of the region, which would include the development of the necessary legal instruments governing the environment and development (national environmental systems);

(c) Designing environmental information systems with a view to environmental planning and management and land management.

## IV.C. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### Proposal by the delegation of Venezuela

### Development of technologies for ecologically sound tropical agriculture

Basis for action

8. Whenever a specific scientific and technological approach has been introduced, it has spelled increased agricultural activity. However, this has happened at the expense of a serious ecological deterioration that has limited the possibility of sustainable development. What is needed is a redefinition of the sphere of scientific activity and technological development within a sustainable ecological framework in the tropical area. The development of ecologically sound agricultural technologies, incorporating the positive approaches of the so-called appropriate technologies together with the good points of conventional and advanced technologies, is what will permit productivity to increase as needed with a minimal impact on the environment.

Objectives

9. To develop and implement programmes for the development and assessment of ecologically sound agricultural technologies for the tropical areas of the world, promoting sustainable and economically viable agricultural production in the developing countries in the tropical region.

Activities

(a) Creating a network of regional centres for the development of technologies for ecologically sound tropical agriculture;

(b) Formulating an international information-dissemination programme with a view to identifying ecologically sound technologies in the tropical area;

(c) Establishing international technological assessment programmes for the purpose of a technology transfer appropriate to the ecological and socio-economic conditions of the tropical area;

(d) Establishing technological research and innovation programmes that integrate the approaches of local or regional appropriate technologies with those of conventional and advanced technologies;

(e) Formulating programmes for the transfer of new agricultural technologies into the hands of farmers;

(f) Strengthening the endogenous capacity of science and technology to establish an ecologically sound tropical agriculture on a better footing;

(g) Providing training in the negotiation of patents and in intellectual property rights arising from ecologically sound agricultural technologies.

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